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Superintendent Huppenthal Announces 2012 United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship Winners

Program Provides Up-Close Look at National Government in Action

Phoenix, AZ, December 15, 2011— Today, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal announced Molly Stone from North High School and Ofelia Piña from West Phoenix High School as the winners of the 2012 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) which will be taking place from March 3 – 10 in Washington, D.C.

“I commend Molly and Ofelia for being selected to represent Arizona during this week-long educational trip to our nation’s capital,” said Superintendent Huppenthal. “Both have already shown they are future leaders through their service on student government and community appointed commissions. I am confident they will be great representatives of Arizona.”

Molly Stone is a senior at North High School and is actively involved in school committees, including serving as Student Body President this year. Currently, Molly is serving a two-year term on the Phoenix Union High School District Student Governing Board. Molly plans on continuing her education and has been inspired through her leadership and government involvement to make a difference by leading successful election campaigns in the political arena.

Ofelia Piña is a junior at West Phoenix High School and is her school’s Student Body President. Along with her duties as Student Body President, she is also a student athlete and captain of the cheerleading team. In addition to her leadership at school, she has sought to further her understanding of the criminal justice system by studying constitutional law and participating in police ride-a-longs. Her ultimate goal is to become a federal prosecutor and politician.

The USSYP, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service.

Molly and Ofelia will be joining two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity, to spend a week in Washington experiencing our national government in action. Student delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense and directors of other federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

All transportation, hotel and meal expenses will be provided by The Hearst Foundations. In addition, each delegate will also be awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. and see our government in action,” continued Huppenthal. “I wish them both a safe, educational, and very exciting trip.”

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